

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 36, 38, 39 and 41-53 are pending and rejected in the application. Claims 1, 36 and 39 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

On page 3, the Official Action rejects claims 1, 36, 38-39 and 41-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabber (US No. 5,961,593) in view of Wootton (US 6,128,298). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a first address unique to the electronic equipment ...

... a second address for obtaining the first address...

... storing the first address based on the second address ...

... obtaining the first address based on the received second address ...

... the server uses the electronic equipment related information to access the electronic equipment.

Claim 1 relates to a system that includes electronic equipment (e.g. a home computer) that is accessed by a server device. Specifically, the server stores a first address which is unique to electronic equipment. Upon receiving a second address (from the electronic equipment), the server is able to retrieve the stored first address (i.e., the server is able to obtain the first address based on receiving the second address from the electronic equipment). The server is then able to utilize the stored first address and associated information to access (i.e. communicate with) the electronic equipment. Support for this feature can be at least found on pages 38 and 39 of Applicants' specification and furthermore, shown in Figs. 1 and 18. No new matter has been added.

On page 4 of the Official Action, the Examiner states that Wootton teaches a server device which utilizes an address received by a client (i.e., a second address) to obtain another address (i.e., a first address) for accessing the client. Applicants, however, respectfully disagree. Wootton's second address is a public address for communicating with other devices.

In col. 5, lines 37-55, Wootton suggests a network address translation (NAT) table that masks the identity (i.e. the private address) of the electronic devices in a private network. For example, when a client in the private network wants to communicate with a device in the external public network, the NAT (i.e., an IP filter) maps the private address of the client to a public address which is then used to communicate through the public network.

However, Wootton's obtained public address is not utilized for communicating with the client (i.e., once the server receives the private address from the client, the server can then communicate with the client using the same private address). The public address is utilized to communicate outside of the private network (i.e., to a different public device).

Applicants' claim 1 is different than the art of record, because the server device is able to obtain a second address and associated information for communicating with the electronic equipment based on receiving a first address from the electronic ("*... a first address unique to the electronic equipment ... a second address for obtaining the first address ... storing the first address based on the second address ... obtaining the first address based on the received second address ... the server uses the electronic equipment related information to access the electronic equipment*").

As shown in Applicants' Fig. 1, a client 11 (i.e., electronic equipment) is able to communicate with the server 14. First, client device 11 transmits a second address to server 14. Server 14 then utilizes the received second address to locate (i.e. in memory) a first address which was prestored on the server (i.e., the second address is utilized to find a location on the server memory where the first address was stored).

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The server then utilizes the stored first address and associated information to communicate back with client 11.

Gabber is relied upon for suggesting an electronic equipment identifier, an index information holding section and a send information sending section. However, Gabber does not make up for the deficiencies of Wootton with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

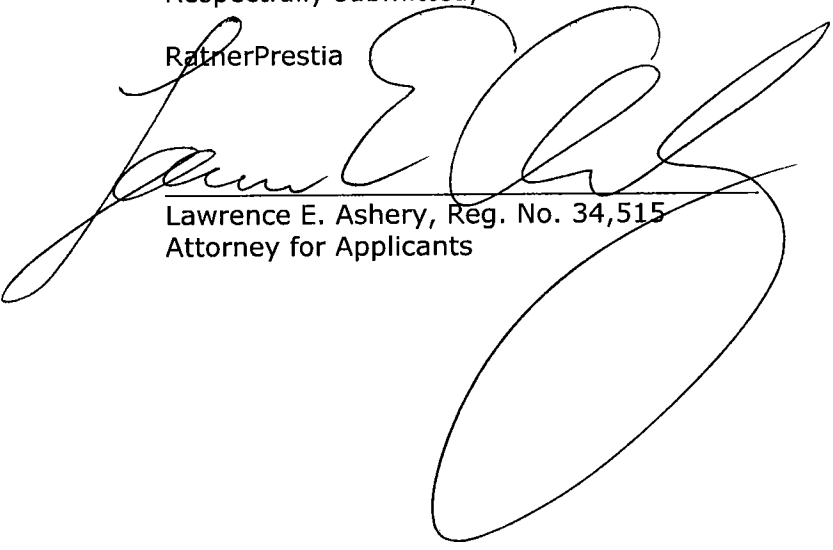
Independent claims 36 and 39 include similar features to claim 1. Thus, independent claims 36 and 39 are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

Dependent claims 38 and 41-53 include all of the features of the claims from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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